



*United States Attorney  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 3, 2005

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**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS ECSTASY KINGPIN OF CONSPIRACY TO  
IMPORT MORE THAN \$20 MILLION WORTH OF ECSTASY FROM THE  
NETHERLANDS TO THE UNITED STATES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and JOHN P. GILBRIDE, the Special Agent in Charge of the New York Division of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (the "DEA"), announced that late Friday, a federal jury in Manhattan convicted HENK ORLANDO ROMMY, a/k/a "the Cobra," a Netherlands-based Ecstasy kingpin, of conspiracy to import more than \$20 million worth of Ecstasy into the United States.

According to the evidence at trial, ROMMY was a powerful international narcotics trafficker who moved millions of dollars worth of cocaine, hashish and Ecstasy throughout Europe and into the United States. ROMMY, as demonstrated at trial, controlled Ecstasy laboratories in Holland and bragged that his laboratories produced the most potent Ecstasy. Trial evidence

established that ROMMY conspired to bring more than one million Ecstasy pills to the United States in 2000, and that ROMMY participated in another 800,000 Ecstasy pill shipment in 2001. The Government also offered evidence at trial of ROMMY's participation in a videotaped 2003 meeting in Bermuda, during which ROMMY agreed with an undercover DEA agent to bring 300,000 Ecstasy pills with a street value of approximately \$6 million into New York City.

ROMMY was arrested in Spain in early 2004 and was extradited to New York to stand trial in January 2005.

ROMMY's conviction carries a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment. ROMMY is scheduled to be sentenced on January 5, 2006 by the Honorable JED S. RAKOFF, United States District Judge, who also presided over the trial.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the DEA and thanked law enforcement officials in the Netherlands, Spain, and Bermuda for their assistance in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of this important international target.

Mr. GARCIA stated: "ROMMY's conviction confirms that drug kingpins who remain outside the United States but send their poison into our cities cannot escape prosecution. The United States, working closely with its foreign law enforcement colleagues, has the determination and the ability to apprehend

and punish those- wherever they are found- who profit from the sale of drugs on U.S. streets."

Assistant United States Attorneys KEVIN R. PUVALOWSKI and SCOTT L. MARRAH are in charge of the prosecution.

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